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Sensors Directorate hosts ribbon cutting

by Tiffany Pitts, ASC Public Affairs

WRIGHT- PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — On Thursday, April 19, the Air Force Research Laboratory Sensors Directorate (AFRL/SN) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new distributed center. AFRL/SN contracted with Mercury Computer Systems Inc. to supply the $2.2 million system.

The PowerStream MP-510™ systems will be used to advance target recognition research by decreasing the tim from development to deployment of applications embedded in aircraft.

"Within the Sensors Directorate, the Distributed Center is used to advance the state of the art in automatic target recognition to enable intelligent combat ready systems for the future," said Capt. Paul Harmer, Distributed Center technical services director.

The DoD's High Performance Computing Modernization Program will enable the Sensors Directorate to use Mercury's high performance, real-time signal processing system to develop computer software that recognizes unique target characteristics.

"This Distributed Center provides a super computing environment which can be used by government, academic, and commercial users for embedded, real-time signal and image processing applications," Harmer said. "It allows for a smooth transition of large and complex processing to current aerospace platforms by providing a development system mirroring those flying today."

Regarded as one of the most powerful signal processing systems in the world, the PowerStream MP-510 fuses the information from radio frequency and electro-optical sensors. It improves the reliability of the target and threat identification process, while providing improved situational awareness in the battlespace.

"The Mercury MP-510 packs the performance of over 50 desktop PCs in a single 36 inch high transportable box," Harmer said. "This brings revolutionary computational performance to the Air Force Research Laboratory and gives researchers the ability to develop new technology, and then transport it directly to a warfighting platform."

Mercury Computer Systems, Inc. is a leading independent producer of high-performance, embedded, real-time digital signal and image processing computer systems. **@**